

FOOTPRINTS

Bethel Lutheran Church Believe—Belong—Become

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.” Psalm 119:105

IN THIS ISSUE:

Pastor’s column

Profile

Feature

Youth in Action

The NALC

Seasons & Holy Days

Church Music

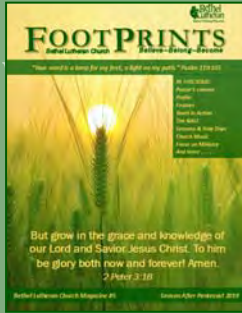
Focus on Ministry

And more

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

FOOTPRINTS



ON THE COVER:
Building the Church

FOOTPRINTS

Issue #9

With the name **FOOTPRINTS**, we honor our commitment to walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ leaving a legacy for others to follow. At the same time, we look back and acknowledge the Bethel believers and our own personal *cloud of witnesses* who have gone before us leaving their footprints of faith for us to follow. We hope our humble efforts give Glory to God and provide enlightenment, entertainment, and knowledge to our readers. God bless you all!

† † †

Bethel's **vision** is to be a dynamic, life-changing church of fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

Bethel's **mission** is to engage the curious, encourage the convinced, and empower the committed to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ.

† † †

PoWeR SuRGe

- Pray daily
- Worship regularly
- Read Scripture daily
- Serve others
- Relate to other Christians in Faith
- Give of your financial resources

† † †

Editorial Board:

Gay Hanson (Editor in Chief), Susan Adda, Pam Dodane, Pastor Doug Gast, Carole Kuhn, Sarah Manro, Debbie Nielsen, John Patterson, and Pastor Al Schoonover.

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SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

PASTOR'S COLUMN
PASTOR DOUG GAST

“Christian” . . . Noun or Adjective

I happened to be googling various words looking for pictures that would go with a sermon I was writing. One of the words I googled was the word Christian and this was the definition that first popped up. “Christianity is an Abrahamic monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth. Its adherents, known as Christians, believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and savior of all people, whose coming as the Messiah was prophesied in the Old Testament and chronicled in the New Testament.” I thought that was a pretty fair and succinct definition.

But as is often the case in my life, God makes something happen that makes me think. With the definition still up on my computer screen, my phone rang. The person on the other end shared a painful encounter he had just had with a person who he knew was active in another church. He ended the conversation by saying “that sure wasn’t a very Christian way of handling the problem.”

It made me ask myself . . . How Christian are we Christians? Are we who call ourselves Christian genuinely and consistently Christian in all our words and actions? Are we Christian in our attitudes, relationships, thinking and being? Are we Christian in our handling values and priorities? What do I do or say that might make someone say, “You know that Doug is not being very Christian there.”

A book came out a number of years ago entitled “Questions of Religious Truth.” In the last chapter, author Wilfred Smith wraps up the book with a chapter entitled “Christian – Noun or Adjective.” Dr. Smith says that if he is asked if he is a Christian, he readily and proudly answers, “Yes.” But, he continues, if someone asks him if he is Christian, using the adjective, “the situation changes radically.” When asked if he is Christian is a lot harder to answer. It is a more searching question, a little unsettling, and one that makes him ponder and forces him stop to evaluate how Christian am I really. He sums up: “The noun is comforting, the adjective is demanding.” I don’t know about you, but that gets my attention.

Like Dr. Smith, if and when I am asked if I am a Christian, I will with conviction and certainty say “Absolutely.” My family has always been Christians. My beliefs are biblically based and I thoroughly

embrace the Lutheran doctrine, and I have felt God’s call to the vocation of Christian ministry for 43 years now. But I must ask myself, am I Christian consistently and authentically? When people are around me, do they sense the Spirit of Christ? When people watch me, do they see a reflection of the face of Christ on me? Do I live with the joy, grace, hope and compassion that make others want to find out more about what it means to be a Christian? The noun-adjective distinction makes me very uncomfortable. It makes me ask the question, so what does it mean that I call myself a Christian. That is a great question for each of us to ponder. I have often heard that the best case for Christianity is Christians, but at the same time the worst example of Christianity are Christians as well.

The word “Christian,” as noun or as adjective, has become heavy with ambiguity. There is the person who never attends Christian worship services but who will tell you that he or she is just as good a Christian as those stuffy long-faced people who go to church every Sunday. The Bible says that good works do not make us acceptable to God. In other words, a person can live to a high moral standard, give money to feed the poor, go to church, and serve their neighbors, and yet not be a Christ follower or “Christian.”

There once was a French pacifist named Philippe Vermeir who was imprisoned for refusing to bear arms for his country. His courtesy and kindness and simple forbearance proved a trial to his calloused hardened jailers. When he was released his record was given this ironical endorsement: “incorrigibly Christian.”

I would love to think that would be the aspiration of every one of us as Christians . . . to be known as incorrigibly Christian. We are misled when we think of being a Christian and being Christian as matters of achievement. St. Augustine, one of the most influential thinkers in all Christian history, said that God deals with us not as we are, but as we are becoming. We are not perfect. We are all saints and sinners at the same time. Being a Christian is all about grace... accepting the grace that God offers through Christ and then sharing that grace in grace-filled and graceful ways. The word Christian means being a little Christ. May we all be dedicated to becoming a little more like Christ every day in every way growing in His love and Spirit. And when people think of us they say he/she is a Christian through and through.

Pastor Doug



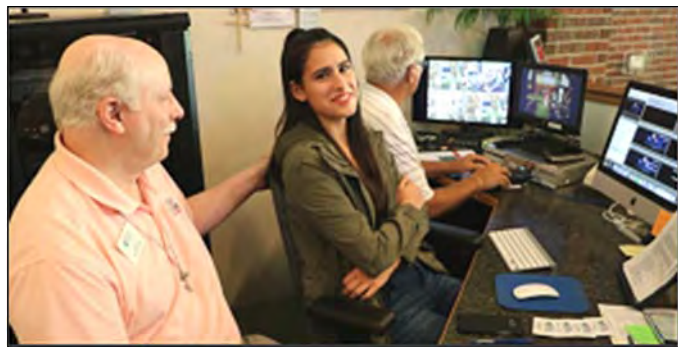
PROFILE:

John & Suzy Patterson

By Carole Kuhn

TEAMWORK

Getting acquainted at Bethel is fairly easy—just one of our blessings. And it is nice to know a little bit more about the people who help keep things “moving” at our place of worship and who also help us get acquainted.



For example, the person you most often see “perched” in the raised “level” at the back corner of the sanctuary is John Patterson. Officially, he is Manager of the Office and AV-Technology. Much of his time is devoted to keeping the electronic areas of communication functioning. This allows us to follow services on the screen in the sanctuary, as he and the AV team work the myriad of buttons in that upper level. Keeping the church IT Systems operating, which includes Bethel’s website, managing the office volunteers, and publishing the weekend news keeps him busy. John said that he couldn’t manage everything without his dedicated teams of volunteers including the AV team: soundboard, worship computer, video record/editing, and website maintenance. One of John’s accomplishments has been growing the various volunteer teams...new talent is always welcome!



Speaking of the office, that lady you see there a lot is John’s wife, Suzy. Her tasks are coordinated with his, and she also manages a team of volunteers. Plus, she sings in two different groups...the Casual group at 5:30 on Saturdays and the Praise group at 11:11 on Sundays.

John and Suzy became members at Bethel in 1998. John as a young Boy Scout visited a variety of churches mostly as a Cub Scout or Boy Scout, and Suzy was raised in the strict environment of “You GO to church.” Suzy states that they “always felt at home here...since their first visit.”

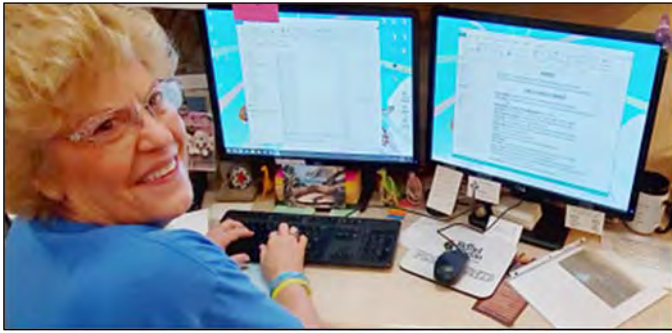


Both have had a lifetime of office environments. John was third generation of a family printing & publishing company. During the Great Depression, his grandfather, out of work, decided he could make a living printing custom leather-bound plumbing catalogs. The business grew, and he eventually built a 17,000 square foot building on 8 acres in Broad Ripple. The “machinery” was a bit different then, but the company grew and printing equipment “graduated” with the times. John’s father stepped into the business; John grew up learning from about age 5. He would sometimes work hard enough, even just mowing the lawn, to earn a 50 cent piece from Big Pat, his grandpa! His grandmother, Grams, was a serious proofreader who taught John “You learn every job, so that if something goes wrong with the equipment or someone suddenly leaves, you can more easily fix the problem or fill the void.” That fits a description of John’s work ethic to this day.

His Aunt Nell, a professional musician, played piano in her own group. She helped form a family group, “The Young Men,” consisting of 2 cousins, 2 brothers and John during his teenage years. Exposed to multiple instruments, his music path was playing trumpet. John achieved the ranks of Eagle Scout & Firecrafter. He was in the Boy Scout Band and remembers attending the July 1969 Boy Scout Jamboree in Idaho when Neil Armstrong and “Buzz” Aldrin became the first men to walk on the Moon. John, first chair trumpet, in school marching and concert bands gave up playing after high school. He hung up his trumpet. So, overall, a lot of his experiences fit into his world today...his passion for publishing and music.

John learned all about office work in the family business from typesetting/prepress/graphics to offset/digital printing to property maintenance jobs. He began managing the office and prepress departments following his graduation from Ball State University in 1975 with a General Business degree. He eventually took over the business...systems were automated and after 30 some years, he decided to retire. He sold the business but maintained a home office as *Office Partners* doing small jobs digital printing and desktop publishing.

Suzy has been an office volunteer at Bethel for five years, starting with a day or so a week, now usually 4 days a week. She attended college in Evansville, Indiana. Her “official” work years included 18 years in banking from being a teller to co-manager as a loan/securities officer. Next, she took on the position of Activities Director at a nursing home for six years and then moved to a different



building as Activities Director in the Assisted Living area for another six years. Moving right along, she worked the front desk at a gym co-owned by her youngest son, Mike. At one time she also worked at an art gallery featuring Indiana artists; incidentally, where she and John met.

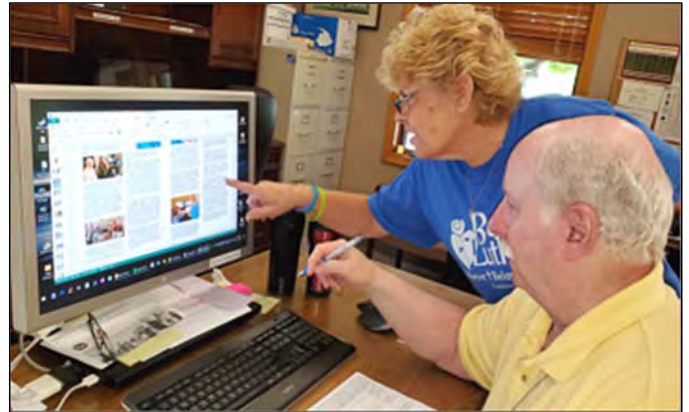
Suzy was born in Ohio but at age 4, the family moved to North Carolina. To this day, Suzy claims North Carolina as home. She loves the attitude of the southern people and also the accents! When she was starting the second term of 9th grade Jr. High in NC, the family moved back to Ohio, and she found herself a new freshman in high school. She had a good time “bringing out” her southern accent which helped her in a math class...the teacher known to be very strict. When she emphasized her accent, he might have her write numbers on the board stating the numbers in her heavy accent...so all could laugh. To this day, she loves to make people laugh, calling it a “driving force” in her life.



They first came to Bethel, just after it was newly built, but totally unfinished...no windows, doors, rooms merely frames. As they got acquainted, they “joined in”...in many ways. John began donating publications he created and printed at his home office...a pocket phone directory, which became the foundation to our church database; then, they designed, typeset and printed the Bethel Advent Devotionals. After 8 years, Bethel took over publishing them in the office. John began working part-time and as church grew, he became full-time. As he puts it, “God just kept nudging and pushing me!” Suzy was right along with him. Initially she decided to volunteer at the office hoping to see more of John and help cut some of his hours. But now she says she just “loves being in this happy, fun Christian environment and helping make a difference.” She helps enter data into the church database, and shares many of the weekly office tasks,

various printing/copying jobs with her team of volunteers. Suzy and her office gals have been observed having almost too much fun to be a Lutheran, telling jokes and hugging. Her favorite saying... “Go M.A.D.... Make A Difference!”

Their dedication to their beliefs is obvious in their time spent with Via de Cristo. They have both served on numerous teams since October 2000. In 2007, John led a Men’s Weekend at Converse, Indiana. He also dedicated time to taking the group pictures from 2003 through 2014 throughout Indiana and Kentucky. Suzy has been involved 19 years and led a Women’s Weekend in March 2011 at Seymour, Indiana.



John had three questions he asked himself while becoming active in the church: 1) As a “newbie” at stewardship time, How much should you “tip” God for all he’s done for you?; 2) How do you “grow” your commitment towards a tithe and in what steps?; 3) Where can I offer my time and talents to church as I strive to become a mature Christian?

Suzy heads up *Circle of Sisters* who send cards to those in need, hospitalized, and shut-ins. They also make the Baptismal banners for kids under 12 years old. The group has sponsored retreats and will have their third annual Craft Sale the weekend before Thanksgiving. She is co-chair of “*Creative Spirits*” - the group who make baby blankets, prayer shawls and healing stoles. She says this plays into her idea of the best spiritual gift one can have...“Mercy.” All her life she has been active and considers herself an “impulse” person...one who “jumps in” to any project. She thinks if it had been possible as a child/teen she would have liked to tear things apart... such as car motors! She did manage to take a toaster apart as a child...and put it back together! John might be considered a person who wants to think things through first before tackling a job. Picture a computer job being given to each...same job. Suzy would be on the computer attempting it 4 or 5 times to finally get it right while John might sit with folded arms, staring at the screen, then doing it quietly and methodically. That is part of their teamwork.

Overall, they think of Bethel as a warm, place. Getting out of the car and coming across the parking lot, they “think of it as home,” literally, “God’s House.” And, we all know, they welcome all of us and guests as if they were welcoming us into their “home.”

A BANNER YEAR

The Lutheran Church is a *liturgical* church. This means that services follow a particular “flow,” and the church year progresses through seasons and holy days that represent Christ’s life and teachings and events of the Christian church.

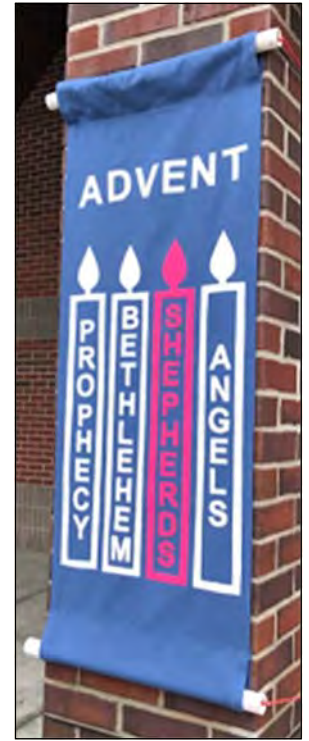


“Liturgy” comes from the Greek word meaning “work of the people.” This means that during a worship service, the worshippers do work. They stand, sit, and sometime kneel. They pray and sing individually and together. They participate in communion. They “work” at worship!

Liturgical churches also follow a pattern of worship, which includes the following: confession of sins, pronouncement of absolution, acknowledgment of God's authority, the reading of God's Word, a hymn of praise, a sermon, the offering, the prayers of the church/people, and Holy Communion. The music may have different styles, instruments, and volume, but this basic pattern of worship flows through each of the services at Bethel.

The flow also includes the church year. It begins with **Advent**—preparing for the birth of the Savior! **Christmas** celebrates the birth of that Savior Jesus Christ. **Epiphany** commemorates the revelation of Jesus Christ as God and his manifestation to the Gentiles. **Lent** follows as a season of repentance of sin and preparation for **Easter** which celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and His saving work on the cross. **Pentecost** follows in 50 days. Pentecost is the giving of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of Christ’s church on earth. The **Season After Pentecost** is a time of growing in the faith using the various teachings of Jesus and the writings of the New Testament. Holy days call attention to a particular religious event, such as Holy Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day, or Reformation Day, which celebrates the reformation of the church and the beginning of the Protestant Church.

Each of the seasons of the church has a color and symbols associated with it. Over the past year, a group of banners, made by Gay Hanson, have been hung on the brick columns at the entrance to Bethel. They are a visual calendar moving through the seasons and holy days — a banner year!





"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

COME JOIN THE FOOTPRINTS Team!

We need:
reporters,



writers,



storytellers,



photographers,



people with ideas for stories, and people with questions!

Young or old! Long-time member or visitor! Introvert or extrovert!
No experience in publications necessary! All we ask for is a true interest in
Making FootPrints magazine the best it can be!

Contact Gay Hanson at church on Sundays or by email at:
FootPrints@BethelLutheranChurch.com if you are interested.

**Check out the FOOTPRINTS Suggestion Box by the office.
We want your ideas and questions!**

STEWARDSHIP

By Tom Foreman

There are many ways in which we decide to either act or sit idly by and observe a set of circumstances unfold to either an expected or unexpected outcome. At times, this is described as “Fight or Flight” or we may say “I could have told you that would happen.” Maybe there are times you have thought “I really should have done more” after observing an unexpected or undesired result. What causes our hesitation? When do we decide to take a risk and take action?

Recently, I was reminded of a quote from D.L. Moody, “Our greatest fear should not be failure, but of succeeding at something that doesn’t really matter.” How do we decide if something matters? Social media offers a potential rule of thumb, “If it’s not gonna matter in 5 years don’t spend more than 5 minutes upset by it.”

Last year’s theme for stewardship was “What’s Next?” – we reflected on what God had accomplished in and through Bethel over a period of decades and looked forward to what God will do in and through Bethel in the years ahead. This year, we open our minds and hearts to being a part of something that matters. We act on opportunities to contribute in ways that matter without fear of failure and focus our energy on what is going to matter 5 years from now, not just in the next 5 minutes.

Mathew 6:21 tells us “For where your treasure is, your heart will be also.” Stewardship often brings up thoughts of annual campaigns, fundraisers, commitments. For those who have had an opportunity to participate in one of the many events hosted at Bethel, it becomes clear that Time, Talent, Testimony and Treasure are all critical to the success of any event that ultimately brings glory to God. In other words, our greatest contribution is the heart that we invest. Ultimately, time and energy are our greatest contributions as they are always limited in supply. We often guard these resources and protect them, saving them for our family, making sure any use of time and energy matters.

Bethel is very blessed to experience exceeding support when people are inspired and can see that they are a part of something that really does matter. If we are contributing to God’s missions and ministries for Bethel with hearts and minds open to God’s guidance with all glory and honor to

Him, we can rest assured that our efforts matter. I cannot think of an event that was successful because of one person – in all that we do, God’s hand is at work through a team of people that share the same passion, the same heart, for the mission.

This year, we are blessed to have been chosen to host the NALC Stewardship Presentation to the Mission District on September 7, 2019 from 9 AM until 3 PM. We welcome you to attend as we further explore opportunities to allow for the sharing of Time, Talent, Testimony, and Treasure. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch and all materials.

As members, guests, and visitors to Bethel look to be fulfilled and look to be part of something that matters, we want to make sure we provide an opportunity to demonstrate God’s grace and comfort in knowing that what we do matters.

Dear Heavenly Father – thank You for letting us know that we matter, for as long as our hearts are focused on glorifying and honoring You, we do not need to fear futility. Thank you for the heart that so many have invested in Bethel so that we may share Your love and grace with others and feel Your presence with us always.

STEWARDS OF GOD’S INFLUENCE

Time, Talents, Treasure and Testimony





Bethel Benefits from Eagle Scout Service Projects

Service to other people is what Scouting is all about. The Eagle Scout Service Project is a reflection of who the Scout is as a youth leader. The project needs to be of significant impact to the community to be special and should represent the very best effort of the Scout leading the project and those helping him with it!

Over the last 8 years, 5 Boy Scouts have chosen to do their Eagle Scout Service Projects to benefit Bethel Lutheran Church.

2011—Jacob Bolling — Raised Gardens

2013—Sam Staebler — Shelter

2014—Luke Staebler — Fire Pit

2016—Zack Reising — Peace Trail

2019—Jackson Von Blon — Reflection Circle

Each of these young men, led other Scouts, family members, friends, and church members in building something special and lasting for the people of Bethel to use and enjoy.

2019





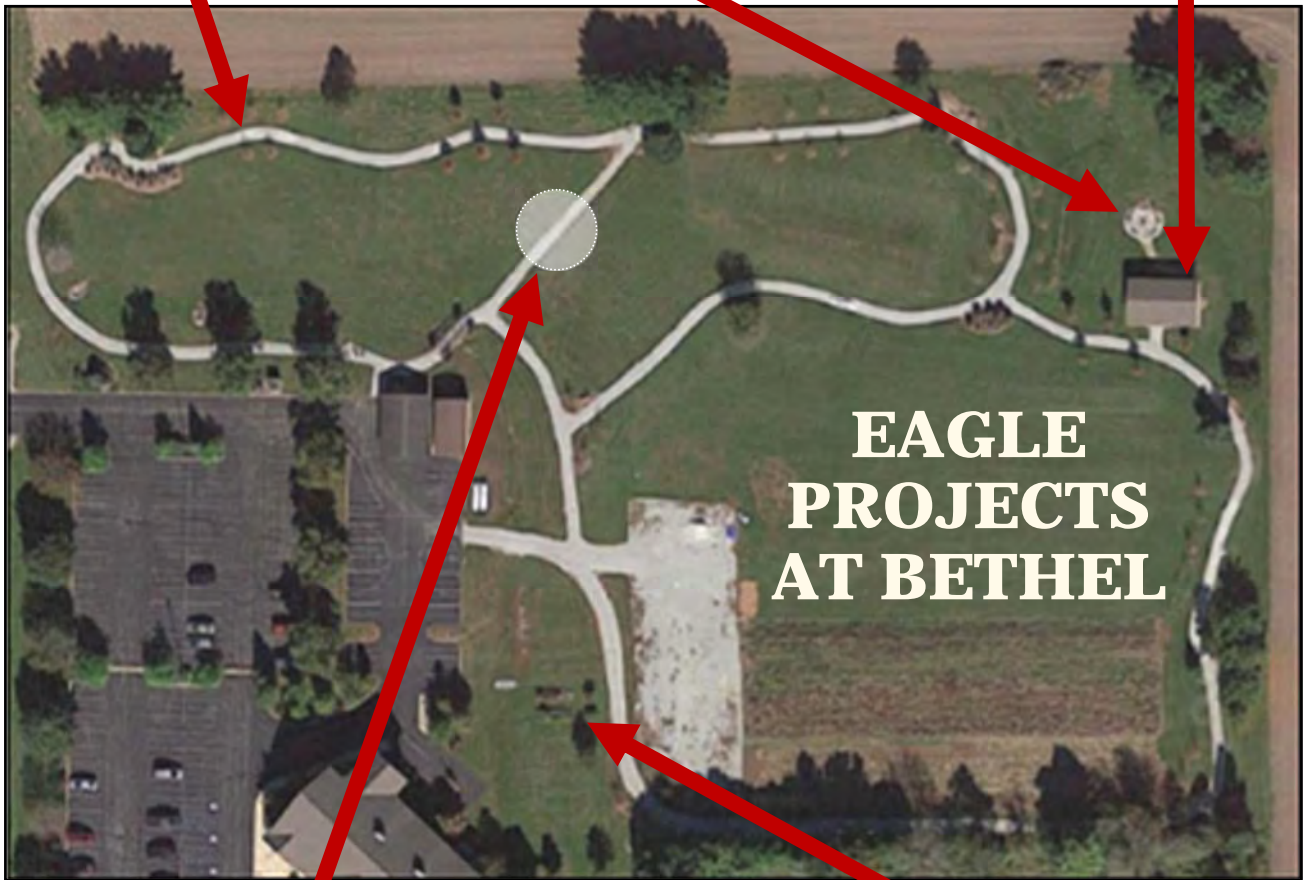
Peace Trail



Fire Pit



Shelter



**EAGLE
PROJECTS
AT BETHEL**

Reflection Circle



Raised Gardens





NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Mission Districts

By Gay Hanson



Heartland Mission District

NALC MISSION DISTRICTS

The North American Lutheran Church (NALC) was constituted on August 27, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio, at a convocation organized by the church reform movement Lutheran CORE. One year earlier, a similar gathering of Lutheran CORE had directed its leadership to develop new organizational alternatives for faithful Lutheran Christians in North America. In response to numerous requests from congregations for the creation of a new Lutheran church, Lutheran CORE developed A Vision and Plan for the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE, published in February 2010. Six months later, the new church was formed.

The constituting Convocation was attended by nearly 1,000 members and visitors from across North America. A number of other churches sent leaders to greet the Convocation, including the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC), and the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Bishop Benson Bagonza of the Karagwe Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, preached at the closing worship and, along with retired Bishop Ken Sauer, installed the Rev. Paul E. Spring as the first Bishop of the NALC.

The NALC has been blessed with extraordinarily rapid growth. At the time of the constituting Convocation in August 2010, seventeen congregations had voted to join the NALC. Six years later, that number had grown to more than 400 congregations. Of those, roughly 70 are mission congregations, reflecting the priority placed on missions and evangelism by the NALC.

The NALC is divided into regional groups called Mission Districts to collaborate and most effectively fulfill the ministry and mission of the NALC. Each mission district has appropriate governing documents that are consistent with the governing documents and practice of the NALC, and each mission district has a budget and provision for supervision, mutual support of member congregations and procedures necessary for carrying out its mission and ministry. Mission districts are led by a Dean, who is elected by the member churches of that district.

The Deans, who are ordained ministers of the NALC, are accountable to the Bishop and support the work of the Bishop by conducting similar functions in their respective areas. Deans shall serve as pastor to pastors, their families, and congregations and will conduct a ministry of teaching and visitation with pastors and congregations. Deans may continue to serve under the call of a congregation.

Bethel Lutheran Church is a member of the Heartland Mission District consisting of all the NALC churches in Indiana and Kentucky. The Dean of the Heartland Mission District is Rev. Pam Thorson of House of Prayer Lutheran Church in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Atlantic: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland (eastern), Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York (eastern), Pennsylvania (eastern), Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington DC.

Canadian: Canada

Carolinas: North Carolina and South Carolina

Central Pacific: Northern California and northern Nevada

Eastern South Dakota: Eastern South Dakota

Great Plains East: East of Hwy 77

Great Plains South: South of Hwy 400; including Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Ava, MO

Great Plains West: Hwy 77 North to South and KS 400 East to West

Great Rivers: Illinois

Heartland: Indiana and Kentucky

Iowa: Iowa

Michigan: Michigan (lower peninsula)

Mid-Northeast: western Maryland, western New York, western Pennsylvania and West Virginia

Mid-South: Alabama, Florida panhandle, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee

Minkota: Minnesota and eastern North Dakota

Northwest: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington

North West Ohio: counties of Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby (north of Ohio 119), Van Wert, Williams, and Wood

North Central Ohio: counties of Crawford, Erie, Huron, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandott

North Eastern Ohio: counties of Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Knox, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, and Wayne

Southeastern Ohio: counties of Athens, Belmont, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Guernsey, Hocking, Jackson, Lawrence, Licking, Madison, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Union, Vinton, and Washington

Southwest Ohio: counties of Adams, Brown, Butler, Champaign, Clark, Clermont, Clinton, Darke, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Logan, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, and Shelby (south of Ohio 119)

Rocky Mountain: Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and the corner of Texas below New Mexico

Sonshine Mission District of Florida: Florida (except panhandle area)

Southwest Pacific: Arizona, southern California, Hawaii and southern Nevada

North Texas: Texas (north)

Southeast Texas: Texas (southeast) and Louisiana

Southwest Texas: Texas (southwest)

Virginia: Virginia

Western Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming: western Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming

Wisconsin and Upper Michigan: Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

ASK THE PASTOR



IS THERE SOMETHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK?

By Pastor Al Schoonover

Why do we baptize infants or young children before the age of “reason”?

While Jesus clearly gives the disciples the mandate to baptize and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:18-20), nowhere does he (or the later authors of the New Testament epistles) specifically forbid or command the baptism of infants or small children. Although the early church made infant baptism normative after Christianity became the faith of the empire in the fourth century, there are ample examples the community practiced it from the very start.

What the Bible Says



The Apostle Paul speaks of Baptism as a spiritual counterpart to circumcision, the rite whereby Jews were admitted as infants to the benefits of the Covenant and to membership of the religious community (Col. 2:11). In households where baptism took place (Acts

16:15 and 33; 18:8; and 1 Corinthians. 1:16), it's likely that children (and household servants, if any) were baptized along with adults.

The absence of positive evidence has sometimes been explained by the fact that the New Testament is concerned mainly with the spread of Christianity in the non-Christian world and hardly at all with the recruitment of the Church from persons of Christian parentage and upbringing. On the other hand, it is claimed that the command to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them . . .” (Mt. 28:19) forbids baptism without conscious discipleship. Likewise, the observation attributed to Jesus at the end of Mark's gospel that “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned (16:16, ESV)” seems to link baptism with belief. What is less clear is whether the injunction here involves the necessity of being baptized (“I don't need to be baptized, it's enough for me to believe.” “No, you need to be baptized, too.”) or the fate of nonbelievers in eternity (“Those who don't believe are condemned.”). The latter point seems more conclusive to me.

Practice In the Early Church

In post-Apostolic times evidence for Infant Baptism has been seen in Justin Martyr's reference (*Apology* 1.15) to Christians then some 60 or 70 years old who had ‘from childhood been made disciples’ and in Polycarp's claim at the time of his martyrdom (c. AD 155 or 156) to have been ‘Christ's servant’ for 86 years. Irenaeus (*Against the Heresies* 2.22) speaks of Christ as ‘giving salvation to those of every age’ who are “regenerated” through Him, and expressly includes ‘infants and little children’ among

them. More explicitly, in its instructions for Baptism, the Apostolic Tradition (21) states that little children are to be baptized first, and that if they cannot answer for themselves, their parents or some other member of the family is to answer on their behalf. In the third century Origen (*Homilies in Lev* 8.3 and *Commentary in Rom.* 5.9) refers to the Baptism of infants as an established practice which the Church had received from the Apostles; he finds the practice justified by the need of infants, no less than of adults, for liberation from original sin; Cyprian (*Epistle* 64) takes a similar view.

On the other hand, Tertullian (*De Baptismo*, 18) opposed the practice (incidentally witnessing to its existence); he argued that the Baptism of children should be deferred until they can ‘know Christ’. Even in the fourth century not all children of Christian parents were baptized in infancy: Basil and Gregory of Nazianzus, with both parents Christian, were baptized only in their twenties, and Augustine's deferment of Baptism is well known. But from about this time the Baptism of children became increasingly normal. By the end of the fifth century, when Christianity became the faith of the empire, infant baptism became the norm. In the Middle Ages the practice was rejected only by a few small sects and movements which were heretical in other ways also. After the Reformation in the sixteenth century, Christian communities that emerged from the Anabaptist tradition once again stressed a need for “believer's baptism.”

Why Lutherans Baptize Infants

When speaking of the rationale for baptism, every Christian community starts someplace, theologically. As Lutherans, our focus is on what God does for us, not what we do. We are clear to say that our faith is not a matter of anything we do or know or effect for ourselves, it is a gift from God. When speaking about the role of the Holy Spirit in our spiritual life, Luther writes, “I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith.” (*Small Catechism*)

When speaking about baptism in the *Large Catechism*, Luther writes, “We do not put the main emphasis on whether the person baptized believes or not, for in the latter case baptism does not become invalid. Everything depends upon the Word and commandment of God. Baptism is simply water and God's Word in and with each other; that is, when the Word accompanies the water, baptism is valid, even though faith is lacking. For my faith does not make baptism; rather, it receives baptism. Baptism does not become invalid if it is not properly received or used, as I have said, for it is not bound to our faith but to the Word.”

Continued on p. 26

SEASONS & HOLY DAYS

ALL SAINTS DAY

by Carole Kuhn

The Season after Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. There are very few special celebrations during that time but at the end of the Season, Lutherans do celebrate All Saints Day. The date is November 1, right after Reformation Day, October 31. Another term for this day used by some churches is All Hallows Day. It may be commemorated in church the Sunday immediately following November 1.

Originally the day was to commemorate martyrs of the ancient church...those who were persecuted and even killed for their faith in Christ. Today, the day is dedicated to remembering all the faithful Christians, those baptized into the Christian faith, who believe/ believed in Jesus Christ. This includes the living as well as those who have passed on. It is a day to remember we are "saints" because of God's grace...apart from any good works we or others do or have done. We do not pray TO the saints...we honor them. There is a saying among some Christians "All saints are sinners and all sinners are saints."

Some ways that are suggested to honor saints: through thanksgiving....thanking God for his mercy as well as his "gifts" such as teachers in the church; through the strengthening of our faith by faithful attendance and help within the church; and also by inviting others to share our faith. It is also a time to remember relatives and friends who are no longer here to share that day.

The church color for the day of remembering is white. –"I answered, 'Sir, you know.' And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." *Revelation 7:14*

**Love the Lord, all his saints!
The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.**

For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Psalm 31:23; 37:28

Open the gates that the righteous nation may enter, the nation that keeps faith. You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.

Isaiah 26:2-4

For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18-20



LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS

WHO WE ARE - WHAT WE BELIEVE

By Carole Kuhn

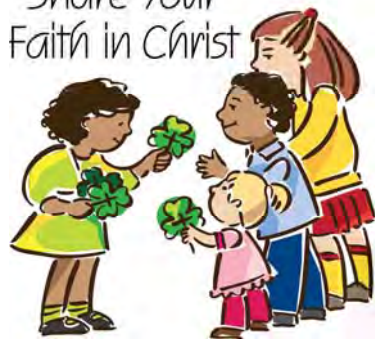
Sharing Our Faith. . .

Do you ever “think about” sharing your faith? Or, does the idea ever really register that you *should* share your faith? Do you ever DO it? If so, in what ways?

There are a great number of articles available to all of us in published editions, news articles in magazines, and online sources of many Christian faiths. A few I’ve read even suggest that we Lutherans are a bit shy about sharing our faith too obviously!

Today’s world seems to make it harder to share or even think of ways to open a religious conversation. There’s the necessary work hours, the family care, the appointments to work in for everyone at doctors, or dance lessons, or swimming lessons...and on and on! But, sometimes we miss a perfect opportunity. A relative or friend who has been told of a serious health issue might comment “WHY do I have to go through this?” It’s probably normal for us to immediately comment that we are “there” for them. But it’s also an opportunity to offer “I believe God is listening. Why don’t we pray together.” Or, encourage them to do that privately.

Share Your
Faith in Christ



Another easy way to share your faith is during everyday conversation...talking about your daily life, work, schedules, etc. But that doesn’t mean changing your tone of voice to try to be impressive either! Simply interjecting something like “I just

have to remember to keep the faith” is enough to open further conversation. If the other person shows a bit of interest in your comment, you might continue the conversation about how your faith has helped you in a situation or helps you during stressful times or day-to-day living. Don’t be afraid to share real-life circumstances such as being tired but unable to shut off the brain and sleep. However, if the immediate reaction to your first comment seems to have the person backing down, “file” the discussion for another time.

If “sharing” goes well, don’t forget to check in with the person(s) regularly to let them know you are thinking of them and are willing to talk with them as well as listen to them.

Don’t miss an opportunity to invite the person(s) to your own church. Many people come to church only after being invited. You can share why you attend and why it is a positive in your life. If there seems to be a negative reaction, just wait for a time that seems to be a more open time for discussion. Try to maintain the friendship and share your belief by the way you live and present yourself and by helping others.



In the fall of 2017, nine members here at Bethel shared about God’s generosity to them during our focus on stewardship.

Sometimes just “sharing” affects us in the most positive manner possible and makes it easier to see how we can be helpful. Remember that God is right there with you blessing you and those you might help. So, go ahead...be Lutheran....but share!

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28: 18-20

References from The Lutheran Handbook, Copyright 2005, Augsburg Fortress.

CHURCH HISTORY

1981-1993

By Gay Hanson

By the mid-1980s, Bethel was on the point of becoming one of the largest and most active congregations in the Indiana/Kentucky Synod. In 1981, Pastor David Christenson, his wife Jane, and boys Peter and Joel came to Bethel to begin an 8-year pastorate. Due to the changing community in Cicero and the need for many overdue improvements to the church parsonage, Pastor Christenson chose early in his pastorate to purchase his own home. This led to the sale of the church parsonage on Harrison St. in Cicero in early 1982.



Pastor David Christenson

However, as some things go by the way side, others make a comeback. In the early 1980s, Bethel created a monthly newsletter which was titled *The Bethel Banner*. While the name may have sounded new to many of the members, the name was actually used back in the 1930s for a more limited newsletter. Bethel's *Banner* became a source of news, meditation, and information to members and friends far and wide.

Bethel members of all ages participated in many different fellowship events during these times. Events included the LCA Global Mission Events and the first Bethel Luau held at the farm of Phil and Joanna Wise. The luau included all the trimmings found at a typical Hawaii luau including the roasted pig, poi, and a traditional hula dance performed by some of Bethel's finest MEN! The dance, according to the August 1986 issue of the *Banner*, told of the planting of corn. What a sight! The mid-1980s saw the reestablishment of the children's choir under a new name "Kids of the Kingdom" led by Diane Matson. The choir not only performed during services but became a traveling show, performing at the homes of some of Bethel's older members. The 1980s also saw the disbanding of the *Married's and Single's* group and the formation of the *Bethel Bunch*. *Bethel Bunch* hosted both adult and family events throughout the year. One of the highlights of the year for all members was the annual wiener roast held at Bob and Jean Geren's farm.

In 1988, Bethel, along with other LCA congregations accepted the new merger of the LCA, ALC and the AELC forming the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Pastor Weeg

(ELCA). Bethel closed the 1980s with the arrival of Pastor Howard Weeg and his wife Helen. Pastor Weeg served as our interim minister beginning in January 1989 and accepted a call of longer duration later that summer. Under Pastor Weeg's loving care, Bethel began the process of introspection and discussion of God's plan for Bethel. Little did the members know that God's plan was about to work in a

very mysterious way. In August of 1990, Pastor Doug Gast, his wife Terri and their four children paid the congregation a visit during the annual "Church in the Park" Sunday. This surprise visit led to a formal call going out to Pastor Doug and Terri on December 31, 1990. Due to commitments at his Chicago suburban congregation, Pastor Doug's pastorate did not begin officially until May 1, 1991. Getting off the ground running, Pastor Doug began to meet with members and express his vision and where he believed God was calling Bethel. Pastor Doug's work and vision became contagious to not only the congregation but the entire Cicero/Noblesville community. Soon Bethel began to see growth at record levels. One of Pastor Doug's focal points was youth, and in 1993, Bethel's youth participated in the



Pastor Doug Gast

first canoe trip to the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. In Pastor Doug's absence, he asked a friend and fellow seminarian, KC Henricks to fill the pulpit for the Sunday of the canoe trip. KC's "pinch hitting" for Doug soon led to his addition to Bethel's staff as Assistant to the Pastor. KC served Bethel for 13 years.

With the rapid growth in the early 1990's, the Congregation began to look at the needs for space. In early to mid-1993, the Church Council held a series of "Crossroads" meetings to discuss Bethel's facility, parking, and program needs. These meetings led to a formal Congregational Meeting held on September 26, 1993. The meeting followed a pitch-in luncheon and was led by Jim Waltz, Council President and Chuck Schroeder, Assistant to the IN/KY Bishop. A motion was made to begin discussions on relocating the congregation from 220 West Jackson Street to an area north of Noblesville. The motion called for the formation of three ministry teams: Architectural Design, Capital Fundraising, and Site Selection & Acquisition. While controversial, the motion passed 73 to 19. The congregation's decision was approved by the IN/KY Synod on November 13, 1993 with the stipulation that the church focus on the geographic area "north of Noblesville and south of the development around Morse Reservoir."



Pastor KC Henricks

Noblesville Bethel was on its way!





CHURCH MUSIC

By Michelle Whitehead

HYMNS

For All the Saints

1864

But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever. Daniel 7:18 (NKJV)



William Walsham How was born into a wealthy British home just before Christmas 1823. His father was a lawyer and his grandfather a preacher. William attended Oxford to study law, but after graduation he entered the Anglican ministry. He proved very capable and was offered the appointment as Bishop of Manchester; but he turned it down without even

telling his family of the offer. He also refused the appointment as Bishop of Durham, England, with its large salary and prestige. He wanted to serve in humbler places.

In 1851, he became a country parson in the rural parish of Whittington near the Welsh border. He served there for twenty-eight years, during which time he wrote most of his nearly sixty hymns. He wrote many of his hymns for people who had little education. In 1879, he moved to London and began working among the poor as Bishop Suffragan.

In London, his parishioners called him by various popular titles including “the children’s bishop,” “the poor man’s bishop,” and “the omnibus bishop,” the latter designation for his frequent travel among the people of his parish. Instead of riding in a private coach like many bishops, he took public transportation, working and living among the poorer people.

William tended toward liberalism in his theology and was influenced by the intellectual trends of his day, including the theory of evolution. His son once said, “My father considered evolution to be the wonderful way in which ‘the Lord formed man out of the dust of the ground.’”

Nevertheless, William was a passionate soul-winner and an evangelical hymnist. He once said a minister “should be a man pure, holy, and spotless in his life; a man of much prayer; in character meek, lowly . . . devoting his days and nights to lightening the burdens of humanity.” And he said about his poems: “A good hymn should be like a good prayer-simple, real, earnest, and reverent.”

In 1897, How was asked to write the national hymn for the British Empire’s observance of Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. He died shortly after this honor, while vacationing in Ireland.

One of William’s greatest hymns is “For All the Saints.” It was written for All Saints’ Day (November 1) and is often used as a processional in church services on that day due to its majestic tune.

*For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.*

FOR ALL THE SAINTS

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one within your great design.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But then there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

ELW#422 LBW#174

Author: William W. How Composer: R. Vaughan Williams



CARE MINISTRY

By Trudy Kussow

*Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.
Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.
Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the
elders of the church to pray over them and
anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.*

James 5:13-14

PRAYER CHAIN

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” Eph. 6:18

The believers at Bethel take seriously the many commands to pray that are in the Bible. There are 200 people that are members of the prayer chain, committed to pray for others regularly. The Chain was started by David Hills many years ago when communication was by telephone and has continued to the present when communication is through the internet, mainly email.

The basis for the prayer chain requests are the needs that are submitted at our three worship services each weekend. But prayer requests can be sent at any time through the Bethel web site or by emailing the prayer chain coordinator at trudygk@gmail.com. Often when there is an urgent request to pray in response to an emergency, we suspect that we are praying the prayers that those involved may not be calm enough to pray. In all cases, we pray not only for the persons suffering but also for their loved ones who are caring for them 24/7 and for the medical teams attending them.

The requests are also included in a prayer insert in the Bethel News the following three Sundays. In addition, we pray the prayers that are requested through the food pantry, for those in the military, for those in assisted living situations, and for the young people at the Juvenile Detention Center.

A feature of our prayer chain which may be unusual is that we include the details of the need, the full names of those who are needing prayer, and the names of those who are making

the request if those names are included in the request. This gives the pray-ers the ability to pray more specifically and to offer support and encouragement to those in need. When the chain is sent out it includes also a general prayer for all those listed and a Bible verse reminding us of the Source of our hope. Updates are much appreciated and are included when they are received.

Pray-ers use the list in different ways. Most pray for the sufferers specifically, usually at the point at which they received the requests, and throughout the day when the needs come to mind, they will pray a short prayer at the moment. One person is especially concerned about requests involving lifestyle issues. One person writes requests on index cards to pray for over a longer term. One person keeps a journal including the blessings of the day and results of her meditations on Scripture about the attributes of God. She prays specifically for the requests during the week and then archives them at the end, so that she can refer back to note and remember what God has done.

At Bethel we appreciate tremendously those who devote themselves to pray for others. We are thankful for their continuing diligence.

“Be joyful always; pray continuously, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Prayer Chain

MISSIONS

Respite Ranch

By Ellen Gill



Bethel Lutheran Church participates in numerous mission outreach ministries each year on a local, national and worldwide level. One exciting outreach in which the church has been involved for a few years is Respite Ranch.

Respite Ranch is a day-long program which enables foster parents to drop off foster children at our church for a fun-filled day of food, activities, supervision and caring provided by someone else besides them. Respite Ranch has been around in Central Indiana for several years, and was brought to Bethel in 2016 by our own

Karen Yochum, herself a foster parent. The program offers respite time for both parents and children.

Bethel provides Respite Ranch 1 to 3 times a year, with as many as 65 children from toddler to age 13 participating in each event. We couldn't provide



the service without many volunteers, (typically more than 75 teens and adults), including church members who volunteer to spend time with these children, and those who also donate food, money and needed materials. The children



participate in games, crafts, science experiments, outdoor activities, quiet time and fun with surprise guests; we have welcomed ponies, firefighters, yoga, 4-H animals and a Christian puppet show. In addition, we serve lunch, dinner and lots of snacks. And lots of fun!

Respite Ranch fits perfectly with other mission outreaches in which Bethel participates. When we offer this day program to foster parents and kids, we are telling the parents that what they do is important and that we care about them. We are telling the children that they have value and are precious in God's eyes. Respite Ranch models our beliefs in a very real way; it helps Bethel show Christ's love to our community. Come and join us; you'll be glad you did.



CHRISTIAN

YOUTH & SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Sunday School — Children ages Kindergarten through 5th grade begins at 10:00 a.m. Children go directly to their rooms where they will meet their teachers). They are dismissed to parents at 10:55 a.m.

Nursery — Infants and toddlers under 3 are welcomed into our nursery during the 8:45 service through the end of the Sunday School hour. Nursery attendants read Bible stories, play and love on our youngest members while their parents attend Adult Education classes or worship.

Preschool — Children who turn 3 years old before December 31st are invited to join our Preschool Sunday School Class at 10:00. Gospel Light Curriculum teaches children Bible lessons in a fun, age-appropriate way, with engaging songs, stories, videos and puppets!

K-5th Grade — Children are grouped into Sunday School classes by age/grade. Over a three-year cycle, students learn the basic stories and Lutheran concepts in preparation for Confirmation during middle school.

High School—We explore various topics of mutual interest, seeking to apply our faith to real-life situations and challenges; to move beyond the accumulation of more head knowledge, into the arena of faith application and growing as disciples. We begin class each week sharing at least one good thing from the past week. We encourage conversation and discussion in a respectful manner. We encourage active serving while reminding them of the little eyes looking up to them here at church. We end each class with prayer requests and prayer.



CLASSES FOR ALL AGES



Confirmation

Confirmation class for Middle School students (grades 6-8) strives to move faith from the head to the heart through a highly interactive experience that includes both large group presentation and small group discussion. Confirmation meets during the Sunday School hour, and following class, we attend the 11:11 a.m. service to worship together. Once a month, we will continue our time together after worship with a large group fellowship activity. Our goal is to develop a sticky, life-long faith through a combination of engaging learning events, regular fellowship activities, and frequent service opportunities in and beyond the congregation. Join us upstairs in the Student Center. Contact Youth and Family Minister Joe Rudy at JoeRudy@BethelLutheranChurch.com for registration information.



MIDWEEK: High School Youth Ministry

Our High School (grades 9-12) youth ministry meets upstairs in the Student Center on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. A typical night involves hanging out, eating Oreos or something awesome, listening to music, playing games, watching a video, discussing the important and the not so important things and wrapping up the evening with HI's and Low's. We welcome all (members and friends alike), and we encourage each other throughout the week. We have been known to go on trips, mission work, summer camp and Boundary Water Adventure journeys. High School life is too hard to do it alone so we try and do it together.



Baptism Class

This class is for parents who wish to have their child(ren) baptized. During this session, we explore what happens when we come to the font and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We review the expectations placed on parents and the support they can expect to receive from the church. Contact Pastor Al Schoonover at PastorAl@BethelLutheranChurch.com for more information. Classes are first Tuesday of the month.



First Communion Class

Children in 4th grade and up learn about God's promises and the importance of Holy Communion. Classes are held during Lent after the Sunday School hour, and culminate with the Rite of First Communion on Maundy Thursday. For more information, speak with Kris Lingenfelter at Kris@BethelLutheranChurch.com.



Discovery:

Becoming a Disciple of Jesus

Sundays — Sept. 8 to Sept. 29, 2019

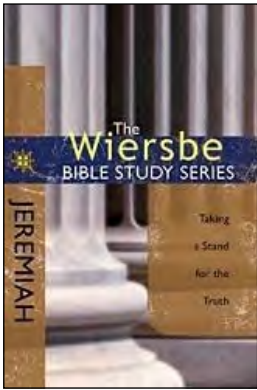
During this interactive and engaging "new disciple" orientation, participants will grow deeper into the life of discipleship as we explore key aspects of our Lutheran Christian faith, including how God has wired each person to be ministers rather than simply members of the Church. Contact the church office (773-4315) or one of the pastors to register.

EDUCATION

ADULTS — Fall 2019

September 15 to November 10

No Class on October 20 due to Fall Break.



Bible Study on the Book of Jeremiah — Fellowship Hall
Led by Pastor Doug Gast & Mark Heckman

The Book of Jeremiah offers a remarkable look at how sin can affect a people, a community, and even a nation. Yet, we find God relentlessly pursuing those he loves, willing to win them back at all costs. Featuring insights from Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe's

Be Decisive commentary, this eight-week study includes engaging questions and practical applications that will help you connect God's Word with your life.



One God, Many Gods — Room 216/218
Led by Jim Herr

Know what your religion means in today's world. Christianity and fourteen other religious faiths are examined and compared, with a goal of identifying the central teachings of each and providing some tools for Christians who encounter people of other

faiths in their daily lives.

Religions examined: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Shinto, Confucianism and Daoism, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Scientology, The New Age, Satanism, Rastafarianism, and Atheism.

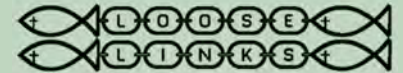
Ongoing Sunday Adult Classes

Ask the Question — Chapel
Led by Jason Pearson & Lu Olp



The Church ought to be a safe place where we can bring our faith questions. In fact, a healthy faith questions and pushes for greater understanding, and a healthy church embraces those questions without feeling threatened or attacked. Join us with your cup of coffee and sweet treat as we discuss the questions you bring to the table.

Loose Links—Library
Led by Suzy Patterson & Tree Rudy



A group of Christian friends who discuss, question, and banter around day-to-day life situations and use the Bible, their own "common sense," and humor to help each other out. New participants welcome!

During the Week

Sausage and Scripture - Fellowship Hall
Men's Breakfast and Bible Study meets Saturdays at 7:30 a.m. For more information, please contact Kevin Hardie (765-432-6211).

Women on Wednesdays - First upstairs classroom in the education building. Meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for Bible study. Contact Mary Jo Mikulski with questions (260-403-5525).

Bible Study Fellowship for Women on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. during the school year.

Monthly Bethel Book Clubs for Women
One group meets the **first Tuesday** of the month at 7 p.m. in various homes for fellowship and discussion. For more information, including that month's meeting location, contact Risë Helgemo (317-877-8416).

The second group meets **Saturdays** at 11:00 a.m. at Harbour Trees Golf Club. Each month's study includes lunch. For more information, contact Linda Crist (317-758-6748).



FOCUS ON MINISTRY

Worship Assistants



One of the newest “teams” at Bethel is the 3-person Worship Assistant Team. They are responsible for scheduling and coordinating all the various worship assistants who greet, welcome, usher, acolyte, read, assist at worship, bake bread, serve communion, provide flowers, write prayers, and do children’s sermons. Each of the three ladies is responsible for one of the weekend services, and since they attend the service they are responsible for, it is easier to recruit from that service. In addition, they coordinate with each other and provide a monthly schedule. That schedule is posted in the office and on the Bethel website.



The Team is made up of Suzy Patterson (Saturday 5:30p), Michelle Whitehead (Sunday 8:45a), and Lisa Pacior (Sunday 11:11a). If you are interested in helping as a worship assistant for the service you regularly attend, contact one of these ladies and let her know!



You might also say a “thank you” to them for helping to make worship services run smoothly!



BOOKS OF INTEREST

Reviews by Debbie Nielsen

Reading level:
Ages 6-10



LOVE DOES for kids

by Bob Goff & Lindsey Goff Viducich
Illustrated by Michael Lauritano

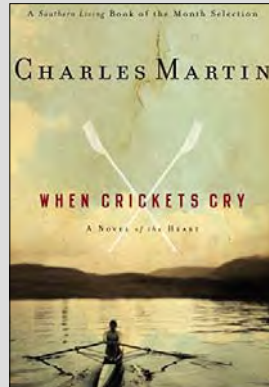
Based on Goff's popular book of the same title for adults, this collection teaches kids to recognize and do the things that "love does." Forty-six engaging stories highlight how kids can put faith into action by demonstrating empathy, compassion, perseverance, hospitality, and more.

The lessons are simple enough for kids to understand, yet profound enough to prompt elementary age kids to make a difference in their world.

The book is arranged in a devotional-type format of 5-minute stories and makes a great read-alone for elementary-age readers or a read-aloud for ages 4 and up.



Reading level:
High School/Adult



WHEN CRICKETS CRY

by Charles Martin

Seven-year-old Annie needs a new heart. Reese, a talented surgeon whose past cardiothoracic work has earned him the title of "Miracle Maker" struggles to overcome the heartbreaking loss that prompted him to flee the medical profession. On a sleepy, summer Southern afternoon, the paths of Annie and Reese suddenly intersect, and the resulting story allows readers to join them on a journey as two miracles unfold. *When Crickets Cry: A Novel of the Heart* incorporates themes of love, faith, and physical--as well as spiritual--healing. The strong characterization, depth of emotion, and slow reveal of an intricate plot in this novel have secured Charles Martin's place as a New York Times bestselling author of inspirational fiction.

DVD:
Rating: PG-13



INDIVISIBLE

Army Chaplain Darren Turner and his wife Heather are both committed to serving their country. Darren, on a tour of duty in Iraq, and Heather, stateside, their purpose is to help meet the emotional needs of soldiers and the families they serve. But often those who meet others' needs fall short in self-care. Upon returning home from Iraq, Darren struggles with trauma, alienation, and a fear of exposing these wounds to his family, lest his "scars" become their scars, as well. Based on the true story of the Turners, *Indivisible* emphasizes the importance of tending mental and spiritual health and offers encouragement to couples wishing to build and sustain strong marriages despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles.



Available in
the Bethel
Library

Liturgical Year Match

Match the meanings to the day/season/color.

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| _____ ADVENT | 1. color of fire and so symbolizes the presence of God. It is considered the color of the Church, since it can also symbolize the blood of martyrs. |
| _____ ALL SAINTS | 2. color of royalty to welcome the coming of a King. It can also symbolize the night sky in which the star appeared to announce the birth of Jesus. |
| _____ ASCENSION | 3. color symbolizes the renewal of vegetation and generally of living things and the promise of new life. |
| _____ ASH WEDNESDAY | 4. color symbolizes purity, holiness, and virtue, as well as respect and reverence - used for all high Holy Days and festival days, as well as for baptism, marriage, dedications, and in some traditions for the ordination of ministers. It is also used for funerals as a symbol of the resurrection. |
| _____ BAPTISM OF JESUS | 5. color symbolizes what is precious and valuable, and so symbolizes majesty, joy, and celebration. Because of its brightness, it also symbolizes the presence of God. It is most often used with white for high Holy Days and festival days |
| _____ BLACK | 6. color represents death and mourning. |
| _____ BLUE | 7. color can symbolize pain, suffering, and therefore mourning and penitence. It is also the color of royalty. |
| _____ CHRISTMAS | 8. season of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the birth of the Savior. |
| _____ CHRIST THE KING | 9. celebrates the birth of the Savior. |
| _____ EASTER | 10. the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who came to worship him. |
| _____ EPIPHANY | 11. season of reflection and preparation before the crucifixion and resurrection |
| _____ GOLD | 12. Jesus Christ's victory over death through His resurrection symbolizing the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him. |
| _____ GOOD FRIDAY | 13. the giving of the Holy Spirit |
| _____ GREEN | 14. the longest season where the scripture lessons go through the books of the Bible and the gospel lessons cover Jesus' teaching ministry. |
| _____ HOLY TRINITY | 15. commemorates the beginning of Jesus ministry with the application of water in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. One of the times when the Trinity is present in all three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| _____ LENT | 16. service to prepare church members to better appreciate the death and resurrection of Christ through self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, and self-denial and signified by the imposition of a cross of ashes on the forehead. |
| _____ MAUNDY THURSDAY | 17. the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other. |
| _____ PENTECOST | 18. the day on which the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ occurred and is commemorated. Traditionally a day of fasting and penance. |
| _____ PURPLE | 19. the rise of Christ into heaven on the fortieth day after the Resurrection. |
| _____ RED | 20. commemoration on the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. |
| _____ REFORMATION | 21. celebrates the full authority of Christ as sovereign ruler and Lord of the universe. |
| _____ SEASON AFTER PENTECOST | 22. commemoration of Martin Luther and others who helped the church find its way back to God's Word as the only authority for faith and life and lead the church back to the glorious doctrines of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. |
| _____ THANKSGIVING | 23. a day commemorating the saints and believers of the church, both known and unknown, who have attained heaven. |
| _____ WHITE | 24. holiday marked by religious observances that include expressions of gratitude to God and a traditional meal. |

Answers may be found on page 27.

PLAY

Liturgical Year Word Search



LITURGICALYEAR
ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
LENT
EASTER
DAYOFPENTECOST
SEASONAFTERPENTECOST

HOLYDAYS
ASHWEDNESDAY
MAUNDYTHURSDAY
GOODFRIDAY
ASCENSION
HOLYTRINITY
CHRISTTHEKING
REFORMATION
ALLSAINTS
THANKSGIVING
BAPTISMOFJESUS

COLORS
RED
GREEN
WHITE
GOLD
BLACK
PURPLE

Answers may be found on page 26.

CALENDAR

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Bethel Lutheran Church functions on a liturgical calendar with seasons and holy days. There are colors associated with each of the seasons and holy days. These are shown on this calendar and are reflected in the paraments in the sanctuary.

DAY	DATE	CHURCH CALENDAR
Sunday	8/4/19	8th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/11/19	9th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/18/19	10th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	8/25/19	11th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/1/19	12th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/8/19	13th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/15/19	14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/22/19	15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	9/29/19	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/6/19	17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/13/19	18th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/20/19	19th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	10/27/19	Reformation Sunday
Sunday	11/3/19	All Saints Sunday
Sunday	11/10/19	22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/17/19	23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday	11/24/19	Christ the King Sunday
Thursday	11/28/19	Thanksgiving Day

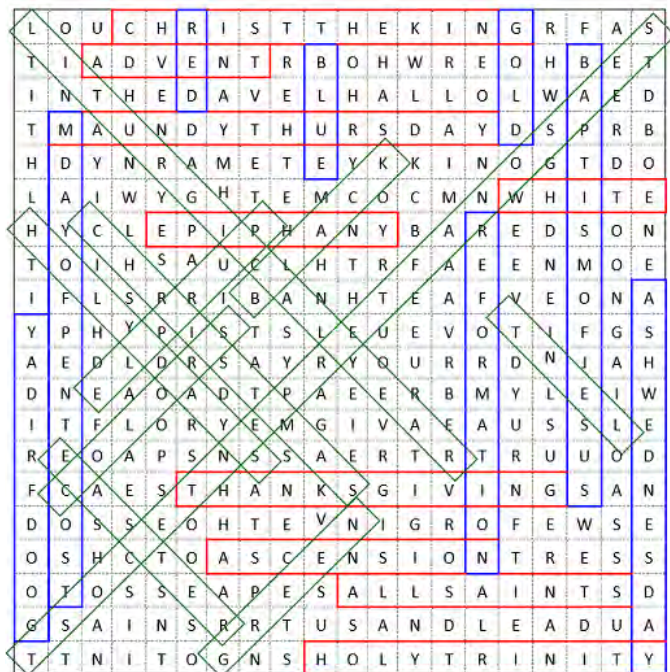
EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

August 1, 2019 — November 30, 2019

- Aug 5-9 Lutheran Week - NALC Convocation
- Aug 14 Healing Service 7 p.m. (note changed date!)
- Aug 24 4th Saturday — Worship & Picnic
- Aug 29 Spanish Class starts (8/29-10/3)
- Sept 4 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Sept 7 NALC Stewardship Workshop at Bethel
- Sept 8 Sunday School Rally Day/Ministry Fair
- Sept 8 Discovery Class starts (4 Sundays)
- Sept 15 Sunday School starts
- Sept 20 Fish & Chicken Fry—Missions
- Sept 28 4th Saturday — Worship & Picnic
- Oct 2 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Oct 13 80+ Luncheon 12:30 p.m.
- Oct 26 4th Saturday — Worship & Picnic
- Oct 26 Trunk or Treat 4:00 p.m.
- Oct 27 Reformation Sunday
- Nov 3 Chili Cook-Off
- Nov 3 Discovery Class starts (4 Sundays)
- Nov 6 Healing Service 7 p.m.
- Nov 16-17 Circle of Sisters Craft Sale—starts 11/16 3p.m.
- Nov 23 Thanksgiving Giving Baskets
- Nov 23 4th Saturday — Worship & Picnic
- Nov 27 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 p.m.
- Nov 30 Hanging of the Greens

* * *

Answers to Word Search



Continued from p. 13—Ask the Pastor

This is what makes something a sacrament – that it is commanded by God and conveys the promise of eternal life, and uses an earthly element, like water, to convey that promise. With our emphasis on grace, God’s love given to us as a gift and not a result of anything we might do or say, then baptism becomes a beautiful sign of God’s grace in our lives. There is no more powerful symbol of receiving God’s grace than the picture of an infant at the baptism font, receiving the blessing of water and God’s word and the prayers of the community welcoming it into the family of faith!

Ultimately, it is neither better to delay one’s baptism until later in life (I was 20 when I was baptized), nor wrong to baptize infants. It is a matter of personal preference – for a family and for a church community to determine for itself. As Lutherans, we offer multiple opportunities to “reaffirm” their baptismal vows. Teenagers have that chance at Confirmation (at Bethel, in May when they are in eighth grade.) This gives a student the chance to accept for themselves the promises parents and godparents made on their behalf. Likewise, adults can avail themselves of the opportunity to say, again, at various times during their faith journey, that they wish to recommit themselves to a life of discipleship (our next chance to do this will be on Rally Day in early September as part of our fall Mission Fair for the new ministry year). This fits well with the ebb and flow of our faith life, as we have seasons in our faith life when we are more active and engaged, and other times when we are stepping back to be refreshed and refilled for future service.

Pastor Al

Events & Activities



Service of Healing

RALLY DAY

ministry fair

Bethel Discovery Class

80+ Luncheon

Trunk or Treat

REFORMATION SUNDAY

All Saints' Day

Hanging of the Greens

Annual Convocation NALC
North American Lutheran Church

LUTHERAN WEEK

4th SATURDAY FELLOWSHIP
Worship Service & Picnic
5:30p WORSHIP 6:30p PICNIC
Summer at the Shelter
July 27, Aug 24, Sept 28

Annual Fish & Chicken Fry
in support of Missions

GUILT COOK-OFF

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Thanksgiving Worship

Heartland Mission District

Answers to Match
 8. ADVENT, 23. ALL SAINTS, 19. ASCENSION, 16. ASH WEDNESDAY, 15. BAPTISM OF JESUS,
 6. BLACK, 2. BLUE, 9. CHRISTMAS, 21. CHRIST THE KING, 12. EASTER, 10. EPIPHANY, 5. GOLD,
 18. GOOD FRIDAY, 3. GREEN, 20. HOLY TRINITY, 11. LENT, 17. MAUNDY THURSDAY,
 13. PENTECOST, 7. PURPLE, 1. RED, 22. REFORMATION, 14. SEASON AFTER PENTECOST,
 24. THANKSGIVING, 4. WHITE



WEEKEND WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SATURDAY

5:30 p.m. – Casual Worship

SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. – Classic Worship

10:00 a.m. – Christian Education Hour

11:11 a.m. – Praise Worship

Communion will be celebrated at all services.

Worship Times: Saturday 5:30pm,
Sunday 8:45am & 11:11am
Sunday School 10am

Worship Times: Saturday 5:30pm,
Sunday 8:45am & 11:11am
Sunday School 10am

OTHER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

2nd Wednesday of the month in August (8/14/19)

7:00 p.m. – Healing Service

4th Saturday Fellowship

At the Shelter weather permitting in August & September

5:30 p.m. Worship & 6:30 p.m. Supper

THANKSGIVING EVE

November 27th

7:00 p.m. – Worship Service

Bethel Lutheran Church

20650 Cumberland Road

Noblesville, IN 46062

317.773.4315

www.BethelLutheranChurch.com



NALC

North American Lutheran Church